

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A positioning apparatus comprising:

a plug member ~~(12)~~ projected from a first block ~~(1)~~ toward a leading end so as to be inserted into a positioning hole ~~(5)~~ formed in a second block ~~(2)~~;

an inclined outer surface ~~(13)~~ provided on the plug member ~~(12)~~ so as to get closer to an axis toward the leading end;

an annular sleeve member ~~(15)~~ arranged outside the inclined outer surface ~~(13)~~ and formed in such a way that at least a part in a circumferential direction is allowed to deform in both a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction;

a straight outer surface ~~(16)~~ provided on the sleeve member ~~(15)~~ and allowed to come into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole ~~(5)~~;

an inclined inner surface ~~(17)~~ provided on the sleeve member ~~(15)~~ and facing the inclined outer surface ~~(13)~~;

a drive member ~~(21)~~ inserted into the plug member ~~(12)~~ axially movably and connected to the sleeve member ~~(15)~~,

at least one of the inclined inner surface ~~(17)~~ and the inclined outer surface ~~(13)~~ is provided on a pair of projections ~~(61, 61)~~ opposed to each other in the diametrically expanding and diametrically contracting direction,

escape portions ~~(62, 62)~~ are formed between the projections ~~(61, 61)~~, the sleeve member ~~(15)~~ is allowed to axially reciprocate by a drive arrangement ~~means~~ ~~(21)~~ via the drive member ~~(21)~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

a slit (~~51~~) axially extending is formed in a peripheral wall (~~15a~~) of the sleeve member (~~15~~),

a cover member (~~53~~) covering at least a part of the slit (~~51~~) is arranged outside the sleeve member (~~15~~).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein

the cover member (~~53~~) is formed annularly in a circumferentially seamless manner.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein

the cover member (~~53~~) is integrally formed with a cap member (~~25~~) arranged from the plug member (~~12~~) to the leading end side.

Claim 5 (Original). A clamping system which is provided with the positioning apparatus as set forth in any one of claim 1 to claim 4.

Claim 6 (Original). A clamping system provided with a plurality of positioning apparatuses, in which at least one of these positioning apparatuses is the positioning apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 to claim 4.